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Letter dated 7 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 7 April 2014 from Moussa Faki Mahamat, Minister for Foreign Affairs and African Integration of Chad, addressed to Navanethem Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, along with accompanying documents (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated to the members of the Security Council as documents of the Council.

(*Signed*) Mahamat Zene **Cherif**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 7 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

The purpose of this letter is to lodge a very strong protest against the serious and utterly baseless allegations made against the Chadian contingent of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) by Ms. Cécile Pouilly and Mr. Rupert Colville, spokespersons for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), following the incident that took place on Saturday, 29 March 2014, between PK12 and Mpoko Camp in Bangui.

With the exception of the OHCHR "experts", all representatives of the international community present in Bangui — not the least of whom are Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA); Major General Jean-Marie Mokoko, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Head of MISCA; and General Martin Tumenta, MISCA Force Commander — have, in their respective statements concerning the aforementioned incident, said that the Chadian contingent responded in kind after coming under fire. Furthermore, on Wednesday, 2 April, the Prime Minister of the Central African Republic, Andre Nzapayeke, declared on the national radio station that on Saturday "an incident had occurred involving a contingent of MISCA, which was responding to grenade attacks." (See www.afriqueinfos.com/centrafrique.asp).

When interviewed on Radio France Internationale, Major General Jean-Marie Mokoko, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Head of MISCA, could not have said it more clearly: "Those who conducted this investigation have obviously never set foot in Bangui. I am saying — and I am choosing my words very carefully — that the reports are fictitious. [...] It seems as though there is a global conspiracy against Chadians. What does an officer commanding a unit do when targeted? The unit responds in accordance with our rules of engagements within the framework of this mission."

These statements by eminent persons sharply refute the version of the facts reported by the OHCHR "experts", according to which Chadian soldiers opened fire on civilians, unprovoked, and the aforementioned contingent was not a part of MISCA.

We note with regret that — as our Permanent Representative to the United Nations indicated in a statement delivered on 6 January 2014 to the Security Council — Chad, in general, and the Chadian contingent in the Central African Republic, in particular, have for several months been the target of a malicious media campaign intended to tarnish the image and reputation of the country and its army.

At one point, this campaign led us to believe that the redeployment of the Chadian contingent to the north of the Central African Republic could help secure Bangui.

As you know, the redeployment took place in late November/early December 2013; however, the situation has not improved. Worse still, the attacks perpetrated

by anti-Balaka elements on 5 December 2013 resulted in the death of 1,050 persons on that day alone.

The Chadian contingent is not the first to be attacked by anti-Balaka elements. All forces present in the Central African Republic have each been attacked in different locations. The anti-Balaka elements are not, as some would have us believe, a civilian militia armed with bows and machetes. Neither are they disorganized. On the contrary, they are becoming more structured, organized and coordinated, and their leaders speak to the media on their behalf. They have weapons of war, and they know what they are doing and what they want. The anti-Balaka elements, considered enemies of peace by the international community, are now being labelled patriots by certain members of the Transitional Government because they have attacked the Chadian contingent.

When interested parties whose agenda is hindered by Chad's presence in the Central African Republic mount and wage a smear campaign against the Chadian contingent, there might be some explanation for it. But when "experts" from a prestigious institution such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights serve such parties in the interest of causing harm to a State Member of the United Nations, it is a very serious matter and completely unacceptable. Accusations emanating from United Nations institutions should be based on irrefutable facts in order to preserve their credibility and impartiality.

Chad is deeply shocked by the tendentious accusations levelled against it and demands immediate elucidation of this conspiracy with the aim of establishing the truth and drawing the proper conclusions. To this end, Chad is prepared to appoint one or two representatives to collaborate with truly independent and impartial experts in order to shed light on a regrettable incident used as a pretext for the groundless accusations which are the subject of this protest.

(*Signed*) Moussa Faki **Mahamat**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and African Integration

Enclosure 1

[Original: English and French]

Press Statement

The African Union reiterates its appreciation to Chad for its invaluable contribution to the peace efforts in the Central African Republic

The African Union takes note of the decision of Chad to withdraw its contingent from MISCA

The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, takes note of the decision of the Government of Chad, announced today, to withdraw its contingent from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA).

The Chairperson of the Commission stresses that, over the past weeks, the contingents of MISCA, particularly that of Chad, had been the target of repeated attacks by anti-Balaka elements and unfounded allegations by a number of actors. She notes that the stigmatization of the Chadian contingent has contributed to the establishment of a climate of insecurity and hostility for which the nationals of that country paid a heavy price. Under these conditions, and while regretting the envisaged departure of the Chadian contingent, the Chairperson of the Commission fully understands the reasons behind this decision and would like, at this crucial stage of the peace efforts in the Central African Republic, to express the full solidarity of the African Union with the Government and the people of Chad.

The Chairperson of the Commission underscores the invaluable contribution of Chad to the peace and reconciliation efforts in the Central African Republic, both within the framework of the Economic Community of Central African States ECCAS, of which Chad is the current Chair, and that of the African Union. She notes the sustained efforts of President Idriss Deby Itno to facilitate the completion of the ongoing Transition process, the contribution of the Chadian contingent to the stabilization of the situation and the generous financial support that Chad gave to the Central African Republic, despite its own challenges, thereby demonstrating a high sense of African solidarity.

The Chairperson of the Commission notes with satisfaction the commitment expressed by Chad to continue to show the same spirit of solidarity towards the Central African Republic to help it overcome the serious challenges facing that country. She stresses that this commitment is in line with the contribution of Chad to other African peace efforts, as clearly illustrated by the crucial role played by the Chadian contingent during the operation to liberate the northern part of Mali, a little more than a year ago.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates the strong conviction of the African Union that the resolution of the crisis in the Central African Republic requires a continuous and strong involvement of the region, particularly through the current Chair and the Mediator of ECCAS, Presidents Idriss Deby Itno and Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Congo. The African Union, while reiterating its full support for their role, hopes that the United Nations Security Council, in the resolution that will authorize the transformation of MISCA into a United Nations peacekeeping

operation, will fully recognize this role and will affirm its central character. She also expresses the hope that the other concerns of the African Union will also be adequately taken into account.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates the gratitude of the African Union to the Chadian contingent of MISCA for its professionalism, and pays tribute to the Chadian soldiers and other troops who fell on the line of duty. She welcomes the commitment of Chad to continue to fully carry out its peace mission in its areas of deployment within the framework of the Mission and to actively pursue its efforts to promote peace and security in the region.

Addis Ababa, 4 April 2014

Enclosure 2

[Original: English and French]

Press release

MISCA deplores the use of civilians as human shields in the Central African Republic

The Force Commander of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA), Brigadier General Martin Tumenta, has deplored the use of civilians as human shields in the most recent eruption of violence in the Central African Republic. Referring to the incident on Saturday, 29 March 2014, in which a convoy of MISCA peacekeepers was fired upon in the Bangui suburb of PK12, the Force Commander said, "It is unacceptable for any group or individuals to open fire on international peacekeepers."

The convoy was returning to MISCA force headquarters in M'Poko, Bangui, with arms seized from militia groups in and around the northern town of Kanga-Bandoro, when it got into an ambush by unidentified armed men at PK12. Without provocation or warning, the assailants opened fire on the peacekeepers, wounding two MISCA soldiers from the Chad contingent. The injured peacekeepers are currently receiving treatment at the MISCA hospital in Bangui. The ambushed peacekeepers returned fire in legitimate self-defence. According to the Red Cross, four bodies were collected from the scene of the incident and 21 persons who were injured in the crossfire are currently being treated at the Community Hospital in Bangui.

This incident comes less than a week after several MISCA positions and vehicles were attacked by armed militia, killing a peacekeeper from the Congo and injuring nine others: four from the Congo, two from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, two from Rwanda and one from Cameroon.

The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union and Head of MISCA, General Jean-Marie Michel Mokoko, firmly condemns these attacks and strongly warns their perpetrators that they will be held accountable for their actions. He conveys the sincere condolences of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, to the bereaved families and wishes a speedy and complete recovery to the injured peacekeepers and civilians.

Bangui, 31 March 2014